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Proposed Maximum Residue Limit PMRL2010-63

Imidacloprid

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Under the authority of the *Pest Control Products Act*, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has granted full registration to a new end-use product Concept Liquid Insecticide, containing technical grade imidacloprid and deltamethrin, for use in Canada on various fruit, legume and vegetable commodities. The specific uses approved in Canada are detailed on the label of Concept Liquid Insecticide, *Pest Control Products Act* Registration Number 29611.

The evaluation of this application indicated that the end-use product has merit and value and the human health and environmental risks associated with the new uses are acceptable. Details regarding the registration can be found in the corresponding Evaluation Report available in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website, under Public Registry, Pesticide Product Information Database.[1]

Before registering a pesticide for food use in Canada, the PMRA must determine the quantity of residues that are likely to remain in or on the food when the pesticide is used according to label directions and that such residues will not be a concern to human health. This quantity is then legally established as a maximum residue limit (MRL). An MRL applies to the identified raw agricultural food commodity as well as to any processed food product that contains it, except where separate MRLs are specified for the raw agricultural commodity and a processed product made from it.

Consultation on the proposed MRLs for imidacloprid is being conducted via this document (see Next Steps, the last section of this document). The MRLs recommended for deltamethrin are being consulted on via PMRL2010-76.

To comply with Canada's international trade obligations, consultation on the proposed MRLs is also being conducted internationally by notifying the World Trade Organization, as coordinated by the Standards Council of Canada.

The proposed MRLs for imidacloprid in Canada in or on food, to be added to the MRLs already legally established, are as follows.

Table 1 Proposed Maximum Residue Limits for Imidacloprid

Common Name	Residue Definition	MRL (ppm)	Food Commodity
Imidacloprid	1-[(6-chloro-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-*N*-nitro-2-imidazolidinimine, including metabolites containing the chloropicolyl moiety	3.5	Dry soybeans
		0.03	Milk
		0.02	Eggs; fat, meat and meat byproducts of cattle, goats, hogs, horses, poultry and sheep

[1] The relevant report can be accessed by selecting the Applications/Amendment/Historical tab and opening the Evaluation Report found under Application Number 2007-5011.

A complete list of all MRLs established in Canada can be found on the Maximum Residue Limits for Pesticides webpage in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.

International Situation and Trade Implications

MRLs may vary from one country to another for a number of reasons, including differences in pesticide use patterns and the locations of the field crop trials used to generate residue chemistry data. For livestock commodities, differences in MRLs can also be due to different livestock feed items and practices. Table 2 compares the MRLs proposed for imidacloprid in Canada with the corresponding American tolerances and Codex Alimentarius MRLs[2]. American tolerances are listed in the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 180, by pesticide. A listing of established Codex MRLs is available on the Codex Alimentarius Pesticide Residues in Food website.

Table 2 Comparison of Canadian MRLs, American Tolerances and Codex MRLs

Food Commodity	Canadian MRL (ppm)	American Tolerance (ppm)	Codex MRL (ppm)
Dry soybeans	3.5	3.5	No MRL established
Milk	0.03	0.1	0.02
Fat of poultry	0.02	0.05	No MRL established
Meat byproducts of poultry	0.02	0.05	0.02 (Edible offal)
Meat of poultry	0.02	0.05	0.02
Fat of cattle, goats, hogs, horses and sheep	0.02	0.3	No MRL established
Meat byproducts of cattle, goats, hogs, horses and sheep	0.02	0.3	0.05 (Edible offal)
Meat of cattle, goats, hogs, horses and sheep	0.02	0.3	0.02
Eggs	0.02	0.02	0.02

[2] The Codex Alimentarius Commission is an international organization under the auspices of the United Nations that develops international food standards, including MRLs.

Next Steps

The PMRA invites the public to submit written comments on the proposed MRLs for imidacloprid up to 75 days from the date of publication of this document. Please forward your comments to Publications (see the contact information on the cover page of this document). The PMRA will consider all comments received before making a final decision on the proposed MRLs for imidacloprid and posting a corresponding Established Maximum Residue Limit document in the Pesticides and Pest Management section of Health Canada's website.